

Town of East Haven, Ct  
Youth Services Commission Minutes  
May 13, 2009; Town of East Haven Beach House,  
Cosey Beach Avenue; 7:00PM

Youth Services Commission Chairperson Mike D'Amato called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

Agenda Item-Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Al Camera, CJ Cofrancesco Mary Cofrancesco, Mike D'Amato, Robert Fucci, Chuck Licata, Mary Varunes

Commissioners Absent: Emily Kuzma, Cindy Recinos

Non-Commissioners present: Larry Doyle, Bob Petrucelli, Kelly Smith

Agenda Item- To Consider and Approve the March 11, 2009 Minutes

Commissioner D'Amato asked if there were any changes to the March 11, 2009 minutes. Commissioner Al Camera made a Motion to accept the March 11, 2009 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner CJ Cofrancesco. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner D'Amato discussed the need to start the Commission meetings on time and asked the Commissioners to please stay focused on agenda items. Discussion on putting a limit on the number of agenda items and limiting the meetings to approximately 45minutes to 1 hour in length. Commissioners Fucci and CJ Cofrancesco agreed. Commissioner Al Camera thought having all Commissioners with input into setting the agenda would be a good idea. Commissioner Camera thought that this would be a wonderful opportunity for the young teen commissioners to review and perhaps add to the agenda.

### Agenda Item- Discussion of Department of Mental Health Grant

Mr. Petrucelli spoke regarding the \$4245.00 grant the town annually receives from the State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. This grant is for community wide, basic alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention activities. In the past this grant has assisted in the funding of the After Prom activities and the DARE Program. Mr. Petrucelli thanked the Commissioners for their prompt email responses agreeing to continue funding the after prom and DARE program for this year. The remaining funds will go towards the new ETV program. Commissioner Camera and Mr. Petrucelli would like to see a list of new ideas for next year's monies. Commissioner Camera mentioned the possibility of a drama club creating a play or skits to help teenagers with peer pressure and being able to refuse drugs and alcohol. Mr. Camera stated that the middle school would be very interested in this. Commissioner Rob Fucci would also speak with the Drama Club at the East Haven High School.

### Agenda Item-Discussion of ETV Project

Commissioner CJ Cofrancesco stated the project has been successful to date. The students enjoyed operating and learning the equipment at the ETV studios. The first show will be a town wide Talent Show. There are 15 students that have been involved in this ETV project representing the Joseph Melillo Middle School, East Haven Academy, East Haven High School and home schooling. Commissioner Mary Cofrancesco mentioned the next series of trainings at ETV will focus on promotional ideas, creating graphics and actually taping the show. The Commissioners involved in this project wanted to thank Tracey Saddig for all her help and support.

### Agenda Item-Discussion of Teen Center Facility

Commissioner Licata contacted the office of Mayor April Capone Almon today for an update. The town's administration said that they are moving forward and apologized for the delay. Mr. Petrucelli thanked Commissioner Licata for all his efforts. Commissioner's D'Amato, Licata and Camera mentioned that lumber supplies could be donated by town businesses to keep costs down. The Town's Public Works Department would be doing most of the work. Commissioner Camera mentioned that we could get the community to help out as an out reach project.

### Agenda Item-Teen Commissioner's Report

Commissioner CJ Cofrancesco stated he would like to see students helping out on the inside as well as the outside of the proposed new Teen Center Facility. Discussion about a mural for the new Teen Center. Commissioner Camera can coordinate any art efforts at the proposed new teen center facility. Commissioner Fucci will talk to the art teacher at the high school regarding this project also.

### Agenda Item-Fall Festival-Teen Corner

Mr. Petrucelli stated the need for new ideas regarding activities at the Teen Corner at the Fall Festival. Discussion on the Youth Services Commission coordinating activities at this year's event. The Commissioners thought this was a good idea. The Fall Festival Teen Corner is held on Friday and Saturday nights from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. Mr. Petrucelli also mentioned Comcast has sponsored the Teen Center in the past several years. Before the next commission meeting ideas for possible activities will be generated via email.

### Agenda Item-Other

Commissioner Varunes mentioned the Children's fair sponsored by the East Haven Early Childhood Collaborative held on April 25, 2009 at the Overbrook Early Learning Center from 10-2 pm. This event was a huge success. Commissioner Varunes thanked Mr. Petrucelli and Commissioners Rob Fucci, CJ Cofrancesco, Mary Cofrancesco and Mike D'Amato for volunteering and all their hard work.

Mr. Petrucelli stated that the Commissioners will regularly receive correspondence from Town Attorney Patricia Cofrancesco regarding various legal matters. These letters are sent out to members of all Town of East Haven boards and commissions.

The Police and Youth Grant was submitted. Commissioner D'Amato will update the Commission on the funding status of this grant at the next meeting.

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 P.M. was made by CJ Cofrancesco; Seconded by Al Camera. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Smith  
Recording Secretary